

AMEREN ENERGY GENERATING COMPANY CONSTRUCTION AND
OPERATION EXEMPTION COFFEEN AND WALSHVILLE, ILLINOIS

STB FINANCE DOCKET NO. 34435

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Comments:

On Table 2-1, the depth of maximum cut for Route A and B is a plus minus 30 and 48 feet, slopes are to be established and maintained to a vegetative cover. Before the establishment of the vegetation, erosion control measures should be place on the slopes and in the channels to prevent erosion and off site damage.

During the major construction activities, there should be a high potential for off-site damage. A listing of site-specific measures to prevent off-site damage should be developed and implemented. If damage occurs, describe what actions will be taken.

In the operation and maintenance of the rail line, drainage ways will be crossed. They will have culverts placed in them and bridges over them. There should be an operation and maintenance statement added that ensure the drainage. Downstream of structures installed across the drainage ways, the site should be evaluated for potential erosion concerns. Practices should be installed that will prevent erosion.

In section 2.2.2, Route B, Construction, in the first paragraph, it is leading one to think that both Route A and B will be constructed. While in section 2.3.1 Rail it lead one to think that Route B will be constructed if NS agree to an arrangement.

For Route A and B no borrow pits or spoil sites are anticipated or needed. If they are needed, what actions will be taken. Will the project stop?

Why is it taking the same amount of time to construct Route B as Route A?

In section 3.3, Topography, Geology and Soils, in the third paragraph check the spelling of Oconee-Piasa-Cosden associations. I think it should be Oconee-Piasa-Cowden.

What provisions are being made for access to farmland, woodland and pasture that is split by the rail line?

On Table 4-4 in the Impact Type column, filled/diverted is listed. Action taken should be described as to concurrence with IL Drainage Law.

A description of site-specific Best Management Practices to prevent soil erosion on and off-site should be listed.

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Don
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In 6.2 Section of Environmental Analysis Additional Recommended Mitigation, in first paragraph, it states a request will be made to NRCS for certifying the Farmed Wetlands. According to policy, certified wetland determinations are completed for USDA farm programs.

In section 4.6.2, Route A, Operation and Maintenance, herbicide washing into drainage ways is insignificant due to the infrequent use of chemical weed control. Any time chemicals runoff cause damage off site, it is significant. If the chemical damage is on site, the resulting dead vegetation could cause the soil to erode. What action(s) will be established and followed to prevent this from happening.

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